

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - May 12, 2005

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that United States District Court Judge John A. Houston today sentenced Ismael Plata-Gomez in federal district court in San Diego to serve a prison term of 41 months in custody for his role in the smuggling of a group of undocumented aliens, which resulted in two deaths.

As part of his guilty plea before the court, defendant Plata-Gomez admitted that he guided a group of three undocumented aliens into the United States near Calexico, California, walking through the desert in extreme heat with little water during the early afternoon of July 19, 2004. During the course of the smuggling venture, two of the undocumented aliens died. The Imperial County Coroner's Office determined that the cause of death for both undocumented aliens was exposure to heat and the effects of exposure to heat.

**DEFENDANT**

Ismael Plata-Gomez

Criminal Case No. 04CR2120-JAH

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

One Count: Bringing in an Illegal Alien, Resulting in Death.

Violation: 8 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(i) and (B)(iv).

Maximum Penalty: Life imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine.

**AGENCY**

United States Border Patrol